

CLAIMS:

1. A preform from which a container can be blown, the preform being of a heat shrinkable material and having a circumferentially extending flange encircling a neck of the preform and protruding therefrom, there being a band upstanding from the flange, the band encircling the neck and being connected to a face of the flange, the band, the flange and the part of the preform adjacent the flange defining a trough.
2. A preform as claimed in claim 1, wherein the neck has a bead adjacent the flange, the bead being positioned so that on shrinking of the band onto the neck, a part of the band is on the side of the bead remote from the flange.
3. A preform as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the band is connected to the face of the flange by way of a series of circumferentially spaced bridges, there being openings between adjacent bridges.
4. A preform as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said band is hollow and has a radially inner wall one circular edge of which is joined to the flange and a radially outer wall spaced from the inner wall and having one circular edge joined to the flange, there being a cylindrical gap between said walls and the upper ends of the walls being joined to one another to close that end of said gap, the other end of the gap being open and constituting a circular slot in the flange.

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5. A preform from which a container can be blown, the preform being of heat shrinkable material and having a circumferentially extending flange, a radially inner part of the flange being thicker than a radially outer part of the flange.

6. A preform as claimed in claim 5, wherein said radially outer part of said flange has radially extending gaps in it whereby the flange is discontinuous in form.

7. A container and a cap, the container being blown from a preform as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, the cap having a skirt and the free edge of the skirt being gripped between the band and the container.

8. A container and a cap as claimed in claim 7, wherein said skirt has a protruding bead that the band shrinks onto to prevent the skirt being withdrawn from the trough without breaking it.

9. A method of manufacturing a preform which comprises moulding a preform having a flange which encircles a neck thereof and urging a cylindrical tool against the flange whilst it is in a heated, softened condition to displace material of the flange out of the plane of the flange and provide an encircling band which protrudes from the flange.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the flange has a radially inner part which is thicker than a radially outer part, and it is the radially outer part which is displaced by said tool to form the band.

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11. In combination a container and a cap, the container having a neck which is encircled by a flange, there being a band which protrudes from the flange, the band, the part of the flange which lies radially inwardly of the band and the part of the surface of the neck which is immediately adjacent the flange defining a trough, the free edge of a skirt of the cap fitted to said neck being in said trough.

12. The combination of claim 11, wherein said skirt has a line of weakening around it which divides it into a main portion and a ring, the ring forming the free end portion of the skirt, said ring, said line of weakening and the adjacent portion of the skirt's main part being in said trough.

13. A method of moulding a preform which comprises a hollow body and a flange encircling the hollow body, the method comprising moulding a band onto the flange, the band, the flange and the part of the body adjacent the flange forming a trough, the band being moulded so that slopes towards the body from its junction with the flange, and the band being expanded outwardly after moulding to enhance its ability to shrink when heated.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the band is expanded by a part of the mould in which the preform is produced as the mould is opened.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the band is expanded by blowing air into said trough.

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16. A method of capping a container which comprises attaching a cap comprising a transverse end wall and a skirt with a line of weakening around it to a container having a container body and a neck so that the edge portion of the skirt of the cap remote from the transverse end wall, and also said line of weakening, enters a trough of the container which trough is bounded by a flange of the preform, by a band protruding from the flange and by that part of the neck adjacent the flange.

17. In combination:-

a cap comprising a transverse end wall and a skirt, there being a line of weakening which extends around the skirt and divides it into a main part and a ring at the end of the skirt remote from the transverse end wall;

a container of heat shrinkable material comprising a container body and a neck extending to the container's mouth, there being a flange encircling the neck and a band extending from the flange towards the container's mouth, the flange, the band and a part of the neck immediately adjacent the flange defining a trough;

said band, said line of weakening and the portion of the main part of the skirt which is immediately adjacent said line of weakening being in said trough, the band having been heated so that it has shrunk onto the cap to grip said ring and said portion between itself and the container neck.

18. A method of forming the neck of a container which neck has end-to-end sleeves of different diameters, the larger diameter sleeve being between the smaller diameter sleeve and the remainder of the container, the method comprising forcing the smaller diameter sleeve into the larger diameter sleeve so as to fold the

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larger diameter sleeve and form a trough encircling the part of the smaller diameter sleeve which is within the larger diameter sleeve.